

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title as follows:

~~HOLOGRAM SEARCH METHOD AND HOLOGRAPHIC
RECORDING/REPRODUCING DEVICE~~
HOLOGRAM RETRIEVAL METHOD AND HOLOGRAPHIC RECORDING AND
REPRODUCING APPARATUS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In summary, the above-described objectives are achieved by the following ~~aspects~~
embodiments of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

(4) The hologram retrieval method according to any one of (1) to (3), wherein a beam diameter and an optical path of the signal beam are adjusted such that the signal beam passes substantially only through a retrieval data block displayed on the spatial light modulator.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The object optical system 18 is configured to include, in the order from the beam splitter 14 side, a beam expander 18A for expanding the beam diameter of an object beam having passed through the beam splitter 14; a mirror 18B for reflecting at a right angle the object beam of a beam diameter having been expanded by the beam expander 18A; a spatial light modulator 26 for displaying a two-dimensional bit map image having been encoded according to digital information to be recorded, or at the time of retrieval, for encoding and displaying a data image to be retrieved to modulate an object beam reflected off a mirror 18B or a signal beam; and a Fourier lens 18C for Fourier transforming an object beam provided with a bit map image by the spatial light modulator 26 and for allowing the object beam to be focused and incident on the holographic recording medium 16.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The spatial light modulator 26 is also allowed to encode a data image to be retrieved, by the same encoding method as for recording the data image and display the resulting data image on part or ~~front part~~ all of the data blocks DB11 to DB33 as block information. Here, the data block on which the data image to be retrieved is displayed as block information is referred to as the retrieval data block DBS (see Fig. 3(B)).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Note that, in the first embodiment, the data blocks DB11 to DB33 are designed such that each includes a total of 16 pixels in a four by four matrix, and at the time of recording,

any of the data blocks DB11 to DB33 has six ON pixels just like the data page DP shown in Fig. ~~23~~(A).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Note that the laser beam may be continuously emitted during a sequence of retrieval as shown in Fig. 9, or alternatively may be turned ON or OFF for each retrieval operation. However, when the detection window of the retrieval imaging device 30 is ON (in the state of the amount of light being detected), both the laser light source 12 and the spatial light modulator ~~16~~26 are preferably ON.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The controller 32 generates a clock signal associated with each of the data blocks DB11 to DB33, and the laser light source 12 emits a laser beam immediately in response to the clock signal and a retrieval image is displayed on the spatial light modulator~~16~~ 26. Subsequently after a predetermined delay time, the detection window for detecting the amount of light in the retrieval imaging device 30 is opened.